

Clean Water Action Plan Unified Watershed Assessment



Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

(January 12, 1999)

INTRODUCTION

In February, 1998 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the *Clean Water Action Plan*, which presents a broad vision of watershed protection in which protection for surface freshwater, wetlands, groundwater, and natural resources are integrated with traditional clean water and human health objectives developing a new, cooperative approach to restoring and protecting water quality. The Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe is being asked to work with government agencies or tribal members to:

1. Identify watersheds with the most critical water quality problems.
2. Work together to focus resources and implement effective strategies to solve these problems.

This framework is intended to help focus thoughts and action for *unified watershed assessments, restoration priorities, and restoration action strategies*.

An important first step in achieving the goals of the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) is the completion of a Unified Watershed Assessment. The key to this process is to use a watershed approach. Clean water is a product of a healthy watershed. When all elements within watersheds are well managed to prevent pollution and provide for the quality resources the Tribal members value, the Tribe will be well on its way to protecting and restoring its valuable resources. A watershed approach helps focus resources and efforts on controlling both point and non-point sources of pollution. A watershed effort also helps identify the most cost-effective ways to meet water quality goals.

The Unified Watershed Assessment is meant to identify those watersheds with the most critical water quality needs and direct resources toward correcting the identified problems. At the state and tribal level, assessments and priority setting will be used to allocate new resources approved by Congress for the CWAP.

GEOGRAPHIC SCALE AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

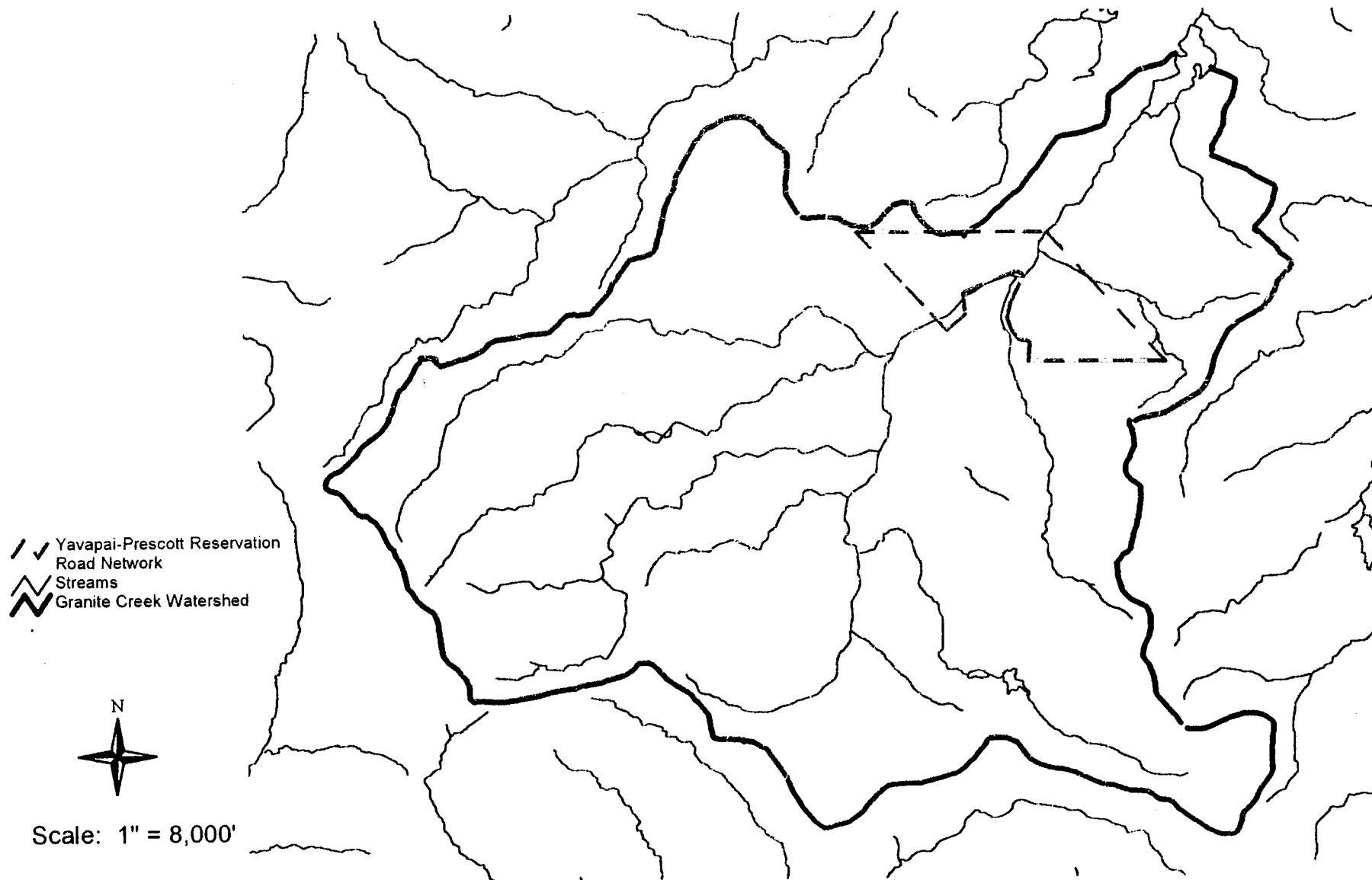
State and Tribes are taking the lead in assessing their watersheds. The Tribe as the delimiting size factor will use the eight-digit hydrologic unit code. Granite Creek watershed is a part of the Verde River Watershed (HUC #15060202). And only a small portion of that watershed is located on the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Reservation (see attached Figure 1.)



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Figure 1: Granite Creek Watershed



Physical characteristics have been collected through stream surveys conducted using the "Proper Functioning Condition" technique developed by the Bureau of Land Management and through existing information and general observation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have conducted biological surveys within Granite Creek, downstream of the Reservation boundary. Additionally, the Tribe is actively monitoring the Riparian/Wetland restoration area along Granite Creek.

The U.S. Geological Society collected chemical characteristics from the portion of Granite Creek within the Reservation since 1994. The Tribe has completed a 305(b) report discussing the data collected by USGS (Woodward-Clyde 1998).

PROCESS FOR PRIORTIZING WATERSHEDS

The Yavapai-Prescott Indian Reservation exists entirely within the watershed of Granite Creek, and therefore the task of prioritizing was greatly simplified.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT (TRIBAL/FEDERAL)

A major goal of the Clean Water Action Plan is to foster cooperation and coordination of watershed efforts. The Action Plan asks states, Tribes and public land managers to coordinate their efforts across jurisdictional boundaries where possible. Existing interstate and international organizations or other mechanisms can be helpful in this process.

TRIBAL: The Yavapai-Prescott Tribe has developed this watershed assessment through the efforts of its Environmental Awareness Committee. The Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors and represents the entire membership of the Tribe.

FEDERAL: The Yavapai-Prescott Tribe has worked for the past several years with various federal agencies under grant funded projects to gather and analyze water quality and quantity data. The Tribe continues to work with these agencies and will provide copies of the Draft Assessment for their review and comment.

TRIBAL UNIFIED WATERSHED ASSESSMENT

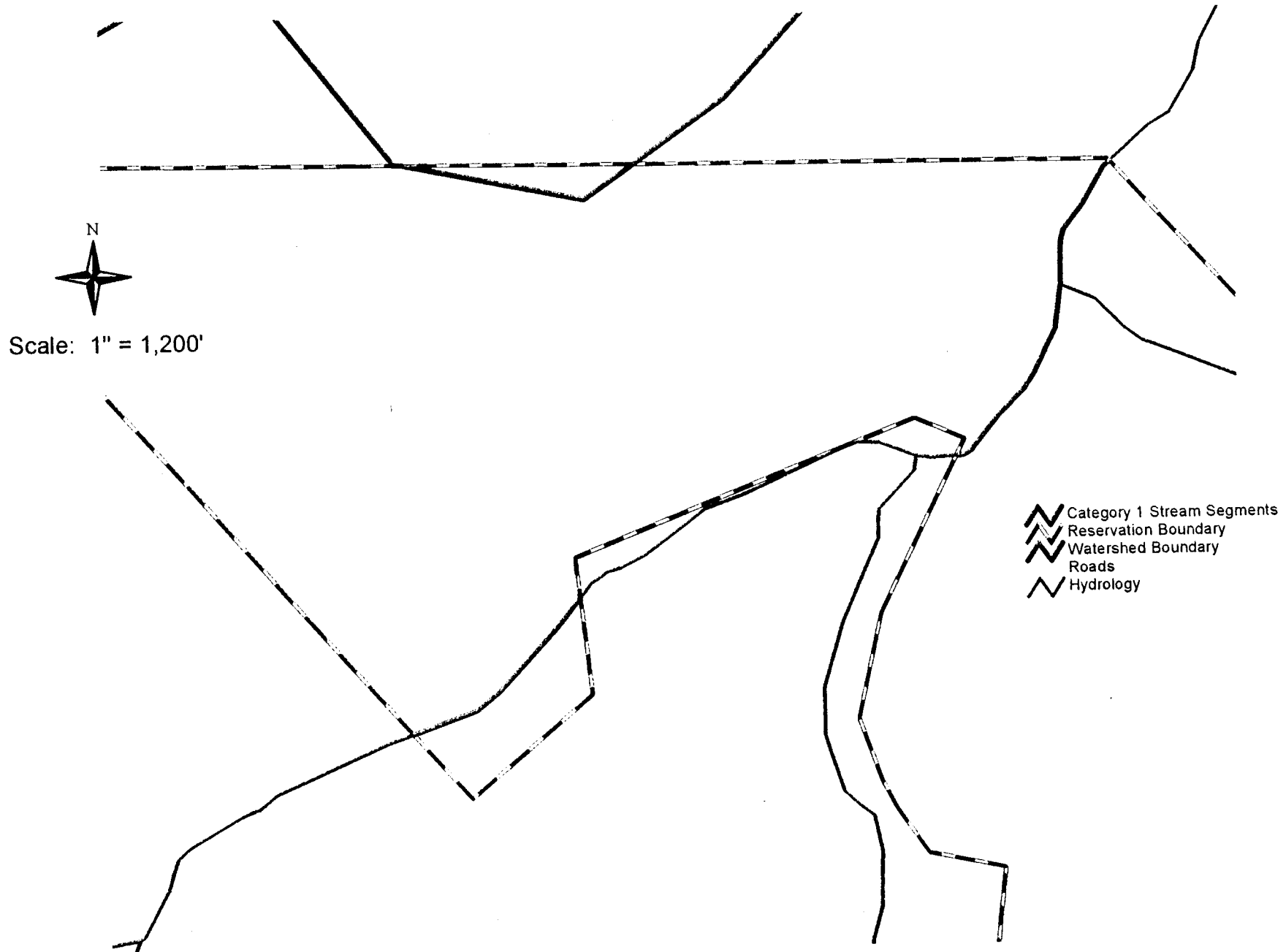
<u>Watershed</u>	<u>HUC#</u>	<u>Category I-IV</u>	<u>Priority</u>
Granite Creek	Portion of 15060202	I	HIGH



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Figure 2: Category 1 Segments



SELF-EVALUATION

1. The Unified Watershed Assessment was developed following the framework provided for this purpose, and is in compliance with the requirements and guidance received by the Tribe from EPA, USDA, and other federal agencies.
2. The entire Yavapai-Prescott Indian Reservation is within the Granite Creek watershed, which is a part of the Verde River watershed (HUC# 15060202), and as such the Reservation is categorized into Watershed Category I.

The process, participants, rationale and resources used to make the determination are inclusive and representative.

3. The results of the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe Unified Watershed Assessment can be mapped showing the entire Reservation categorized as Watershed Category I, (see attached Figure 2).
4. The Tribe has identified WRPs for the FY 1999-2000 schedule.